

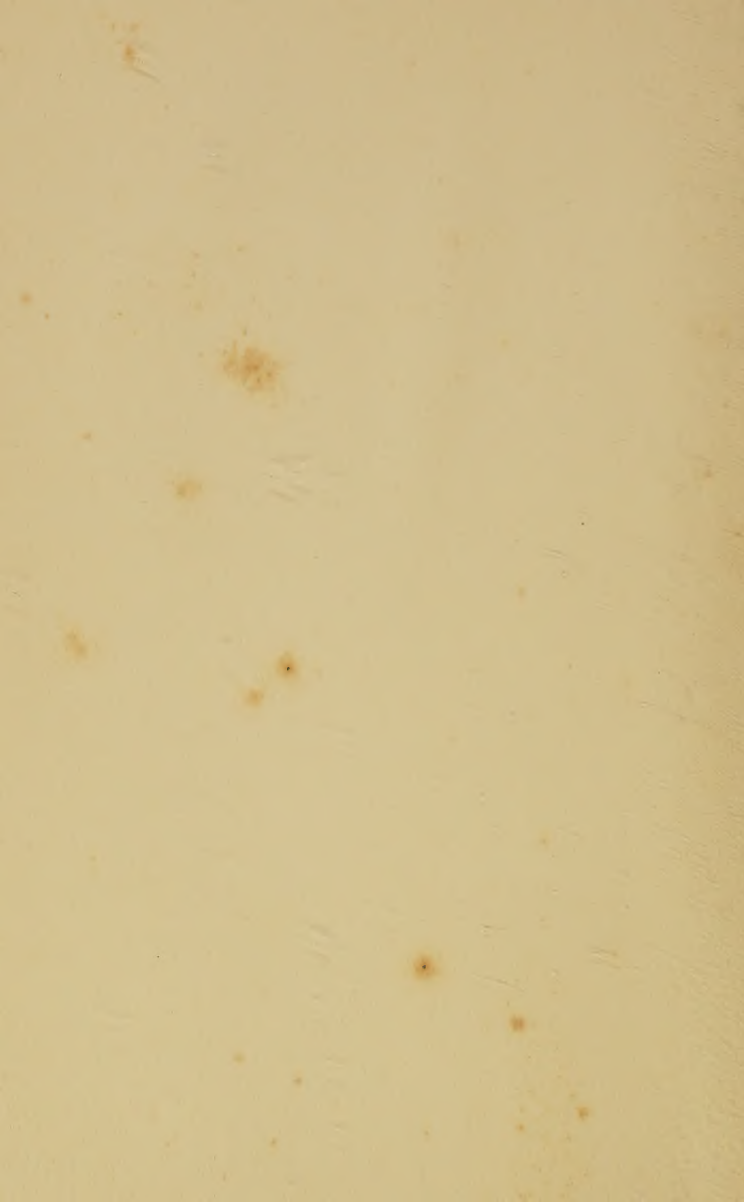
The BOOK of
HOLIDAYS

Central BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



KANSAS CITY, KANSAS





The BOOK *of*
HOLIDAYS

The BOOK *of* HOLIDAYS

What-When-Where-Why

By HARRY SPENCER STUFF

BEING A RECORD OF *All Holidays, Holy Days, Feasts, Fasts AND Festivals, INCLUDING World Holidays, The Bank Holidays IN CALIFORNIA, AND Legal Holidays IN ALL STATES, COMBINING THEREWITH THEIR SOURCE AND CUSTOMS WITH COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL DATA*

ARRANGED FOR AND PUBLISHED BY
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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KANSAS CITY 2, KANSAS

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AND BINDING HOUSE**

SALUTATION: *To Saint or Sinner*

*Since Every Single Day
Is Some One's Natal Date,
Or Some Particular Holiday
On Which We Celebrate—
Or Perhaps Some Holy Day
Which Creeds Commemorate—
Seek, Search and See,
Satisfactorily Set Forth Herein,
Something Seasonably Significant
To Every Kith and Kin—
To Every Solitary Somebody,
Somewhere, Sometime, Someday,
Be It in Sunny Southland
Or Sections Far Away.*

*Good Old Sol Keeps on a-Shining—
Moon and Tide Keep on Combining—
Mills of Gods Keep on a-Grinding—
'Tis Thus Our Clocks Keep on Chiming:
"Another Holiday."*

—HARRY SPENCER STUFF.

"WE HAVE not *read* an author till we have
seen his object, whatever it may be, as *he*
saw it."

CARLYLE, *Essays*.

The BOOK of HOLIDAYS

THIS, *The* BOOK of HOLIDAYS, is different from any other book yet published. It treats of the what, when, where and why of holidays and events pertaining thereto. It stresses the *why*—the origin and reason for observance.

SINCE the days Calendars were first recorded in print there have been issued Almanacs, Year Books, Date Books, and Annuals by the thousands, yet none of these have ever combined all of the features of this book.

THAT the reader may more clearly understand and appreciate the scope of *The* BOOK of HOLIDAYS, he is first invited to read Webster's definition of the word:

"HOLIDAY:—(*Holy Day*).—A consecrated day; a religious anniversary or festival; an holy day (from which the word is derived); any day of exemption from labor or work; a day of amusement or recreation; a festival day; a legal holiday; a day fixed by law for the suspension of labor or work either in whole or part."

SINCE the word "holiday" is so closely associated with "holy day," a book of this character should necessarily combine all "holy days" of all Churches.

The BOOK of HOLIDAYS ---

MANY holidays, though of a festal character, trace their origin to "holy days." Though entirely foreign in manner of observance, it is indeed interesting to note the origin of the custom of celebration.

THIS is the second quarter of the Twentieth Century, a day of modern things and customs as well. The wonderful old encyclopedia, the chronicles of the Civil War Period, and even modern dictionaries do not fully cover present customs of holiday observance.

A WORK of this character is largely a matter of compilation. Were it not for the before-mentioned wonderful encyclopedia, and volumes such as *Chambers's Book of Days*, *Walsh's Popular Customs*, *Edward's Facts and Phrases*, and others, the production of this book would be impossible.

THIS is truly the day of "he who runs *may* read," and more particularly a day wherein the runner readeth not. Who, interested even in an approaching holiday, will trouble to search at length exhaustive volumes of reference?

THAT these pages are filled with matters of thrilling interest may be judged to a certain extent by this illustration:

ST. PATRICK'S Day? Surely everybody knows about St. Patrick's Day. Who was he? Why the shamrock on St. Patrick's Day? Did he drive the snakes out of Ireland, or was it frogs? Why was St. Patrick a forerunner of a present-day custom of

the Salvation Army? What had St. Patrick to do with a popular Leap Year custom?

OR THIS: If All Hallowe'en is an All Hallowed Evening of All Saints' Day, why the hilarity, the grotesque masques, the rough-house pranks of Young America and similar customs in present-day celebration?

OR THIS: Why do Banks close on Legal Holidays, on Election Days, and on Saturday afternoons?

THAT'S it, *why?* This is only one of the reasons for this book. The majority today stops not to reason why. Yet the mind which seeks the cause, source and effect of things is recorded as the highest type of intellect.

WHAT is most needed in the world today? World peace. What fundamental in education counts most for world peace? Tolerance for another's belief and customs. How may we know of the truth about the customs of another? By at least reading in abbreviated form the source and true meaning of those customs and rites—another good reason for this book.

BUT above all, *Life is* what we make it. *Time is* the stuff of which *Life* is made. Holidays, holy days, birthdays and festal days are the bright periods of Time—of Life. Be those spots holy, festive, sportive or recreative, they are the events which make Life more livable.

The BOOK of HOLIDAYS

WHAT do we all crave above everything else? Happiness. What makes work joyful? The elimination of monotony. What adds most to the Joy of Living? Holidays. Why? Because they relieve Life of its monotony. Holidays are the spice of Life.

WHAT is the *secret* of a Pleasing Personality? Genuine, sincere interest in another's joys and sorrows.

WOULD the world be more enjoyable if we had more Pleasing Personalities? Of course it would.

WOULD not a knowledge of the what, when, where and *why* of another's holiday, though entirely foreign to us, be helpful in expressing kindly interest in our neighbor's joys and sorrows?

NOW, perhaps as the reader reads on he will find written between the lines of this *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS* the message of the Golden Rule, of kindness, of tolerance, of peace, of poise, and happiness.

DEVOTED to Patriotism, there are holidays a-plenty herein recorded. For the lawful enjoyment and observance of all the other holidays the gates of the United States of America were opened.

JEW, Gentile, Catholic, Protestant, Mason or anti-fraternalist, Saint or Sinner: Welcome to the contents of this book. It is "for all and all for you."

THIS is an age of commercialism, and lest the advantage of this *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS* be

The BOOK of HOLIDAYS ---

overlooked commercially, merchants, window dressers, advertising agents and publicity men are invited to note the many suggestions offered herein.

THERE are hundreds of good merchandising and community-welfare publicity leads in these pages.

THOUGH certain dates of the year current are incorporated, this is *not* a year book, perishable with the current calendar. It will be found in Libraries and Reference Rooms, and in time, in Schools. All who have known of it in the making have expressed keenly the desire to possess it.

TO THE authors and publications named, to friends who have assisted, to the Public Library Custodians, to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, to the Iowa Masonic State Library at Cedar Rapids, the author gives just, and in fact all credit. Save for the idea, the research and the conclusions, this *The* BOOK of HOLIDAYS is a composite of many historical records.

AS TO reliability and information contacted the publishers assume no legal responsibility, errors and omissions being excepted. It has been the aim of the author, however, to verify carefully all historical data included.

MAY the reader find herein his Happiest Holiday as well as that of his neighbor.

Sincerely,

Compiled and arranged for
THE TIMES-MIRROR COMPANY
Los Angeles, California.

THE AUTHOR.

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October 12—Columbus Day (Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, also in Porto Rico. In Arkansas and Kansas it does not affect notes or judicial proceedings).

November 2—General Election Day (first Tuesday after first Monday in November). Every State and Territory except Alaska, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Ohio, Philippines and Vermont. In Illinois it is a legal holiday in Chicago, Springfield, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Danville, Cairo and Rockford. In Ohio it is a half holiday. In Maine it is a legal holiday only as to courts, which close on the State Election Day (biennially, second Monday in September).

November 11—Armistice Day (Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Hawaii. In other States by Governor's proclamation only).

November 25—Thanksgiving Day (last Thursday in November. Every State, Territory and possession except Utah, where it is observed, though not on the statute books).

December 25—Christmas Day (every State, Territory and possession).

Other LEGAL or PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

January 8—Battle of New Orleans (at New Orleans only).

January 19—R. E. Lee's Birthday (observed in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia).

February 12—Georgia Day (in that State only. Date of Oglethorpe's landing in 1733).

February 14—Admission Day (in Arizona).

February 16—Shrove Tuesday (observed as Mardi Gras in Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana).

March 2—Sam Houston Memorial Day (in Texas).

March 4—Inauguration Day (once in every four years in the District of Columbia only).

March 22—Emancipation Day (in Porto Rico).

March 25—Maryland Day (in that State only).

March 30—Seward Day (in Alaska).

April 9—Holy Thursday (in the Philippines).

April 12—Date of passage of Halifax Resolutions (in North Carolina).

April 15—Birthday of Thomas Jefferson (in Alabama).

April 19—Observed as Patriots' Day (in Maine and Massachusetts).

April 21—Anniversary of Battle of San Jacinto (in Texas).

April 20—(Third Tuesday) State elections (in Louisiana).

April 26—Confederate Memorial Day (in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi).

April 29—(Last Thursday)—Fast Day (in New Hampshire).

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May 1—Labor Day (in Philippines).

May 9—Mother's day (generally observed).

May 10—Confederate Memorial Day (observed in North Carolina and South Carolina).

May 20—Anniversary of signing of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (observed in North Carolina).

June 3—Confederate Memorial Day (in Tennessee).

June 3—Birthday of Jefferson Davis (in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia).

June 11—Kamehameha Day (in Hawaii).

June 15—Pioneer Day (in Idaho).

July 13—Birthday of General Bedford Forrest (Tennessee only).

July 17—Muno Rivera Day (in Porto Rico).

July 24—Pioneer Day (in Utah).

July 25—Occupation Day (in Porto Rico).

August 1—Colorado Day (in that State only).

August 13—Occupation Day (in Philippines).

August 16—Anniversary Battle Bennington (in Vermont).

September 6—Lafayette Day (also anniversary of the First Battle of the Marne) is not a legal holiday, but is celebrated in New York and ten other States.

September 9—Admission Day (in California).

September 12—Defenders' Day (in Maryland).

October 1—Missouri Day (in that State only).

October 9—Fraternal Day (Alabama only).

October 18—Alaska Day (in Alaska only).

October 31—Admission Day (in Nevada).

November 1—All Saints' Day (in Louisiana).

November 2—Election Day (in California).

December 30—Rizal Day (in Philippines).

CALIFORNIA LEGAL or BANK HOLIDAYS

*The Following Days are recognized as Legal Holidays by
Members of the State Banking Associations and
Clearing Houses as well as Stock and Com-
mercial Exchange Members generally*

NEW YEAR'S DAY	January 1
LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	February 12
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	February 22
DECORATION DAY (<i>Sunday, May 30</i>)	Observed May 31
INDEPENDENCE DAY (<i>Sunday, July 4</i>)	Observed July 5
ELECTION—STATE PRIMARIES	August 31
LABOR DAY	September 6
ADMISSION DAY	September 9
COLUMBUS DAY	October 12
ELECTION DAY	November 2
ARMISTICE DAY	November 11
THANKSGIVING DAY	November 25
CHRISTMAS	December 25
EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON	

*Where Holiday falls on Sunday the Monday
following is generally observed as a
Legal Holiday*

ELECTION DAYS

In Los Angeles, there are no City Elections during 1926.

STATE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION

*August 31 (Last Tuesday in August, 1926), STATE PRIMARY.
November 2 (First Tuesday in November, 1926), GENERAL
ELECTION.*

(For Governor, State Candidates, Assemblymen, etc.)

LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT STORE SATURDAY HOLIDAYS

FULL SATURDAY HOLIDAYS

During July and August, 1926

BROADWAY DEPARTMENT STORE

JACOBY BROTHERS

THE MAY COMPANY

VILLE DE PARIS

NEW YORK CLOAK AND SUIT HOUSE

J. W. ROBINSON COMPANY

N. B. BLACKSTONE COMPANY

FIFTH STREET STORE

*Open all day Saturday during other months in
the year.*

HALF-SATURDAY HOLIDAY

BULLOCK'S

*During entire year, closing at one o'clock every
Saturday.*

HALF-SATURDAY HOLIDAY

During July and August, 1926

MULLEN & BLUETT

SILVERWOOD'S

ALL-YEAR
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
HOLIDAY

Among Los Angeles Wholesale and Manufacturing Plants generally Saturday afternoon is a designated year-round Half-Holiday.

AMERICAN-PLAN SHOPS

In all American-Plan Shops the 48-hour week is observed, and in most of these the Saturday Half-Holiday granted by reason of a fraction of the time being distributed over each of the five and one-half days of the working week of forty-eight hours. The generally recognized holidays are:

NEW YEAR'S

FOURTH OF JULY

LABOR DAY

THANKSGIVING

CHRISTMAS

SPECIAL WEEKS *in the* UNITED STATES

As many of the Special Weeks observed by selection or proclamation in the United States are not definitely dated at time of publication, the following list of titles is given with dates and sponsors as far as obtainable:

American Education Week—

November—U. S. Bureau of
Education, Sponsors

American Indian Week

American Legion Week

Arbor Week

Art Week

Art Poster Week

Baseball Week

Better Homes Week—*October*—

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Sponsors

Better Speech Week—National

Council of Teachers, English,
Sponsors

Boy Scout Week

Boys' Week

Canned Food Week—*October*—

National Canners' Association,
Washington, Sponsors

Children's Book Week—*November*

Clean-Up Week—Local

Community Chest Week—*October*

Confectionery Week—*October*

Conservation Week

Constitution Week

Courtesy Week

Know Your City Week

Cranberry Week

Dairy Week

Dental Hygiene Week

Disarmament Week

Efficiency Week

Father and Son Week

Find Yourself Week

Fire Prevention Week—National

Board of Fire Underwriters,
U. S. Chamber of Commerce,
Sponsors

First Aid Week

Flag Week

Forest Protection Week—Forest

Service, U. S. Department of
Agriculture, Sponsors

Garden Week—*April*

Girl Scout Week

Girls' Week

Good English Week

Good Health Week—American
Child Health Association, Wash-
ington, Sponsors

Home and Social Week

Honesty Week

Humane Week

International Peace Week

Pay Your Bills Week

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Law Enforcement Week	Pennsylvania Week
Library Week	Physical Education Week
Lighting Week	Poetry Week
Local Hospital Week	Pride in Appearance Week— National Association of Retail Clothiers and Furnishers, Chi- cago, Sponsors
Milk Week	Prune Week
Mother and Daughter Week	Raisin Week
Music Week— <i>May</i> —National Bureau for Advancement of Music, Sponsors	Red Cross Week
National Apple Week— <i>Interna- tional Apple Shippers' Associa- tion, Sponsors</i>	Rotary Week
National Bicycle Week— <i>Cycle Traders of America, Inc., 35 Warren St., New York, Sponsors</i>	Safety Week— <i>National Safety Council, Sponsors</i>
National Book Week— <i>November</i>	School Exhibit Week
National Drama Week— <i>January</i>	Scout Campaign Week
National Highway Week	Self Denial Week
National Laundry Week	Temperance Week
National Picture Week— <i>October</i>	Thanksgiving Week
National Narcotic Education Week	Thrift Week— <i>January</i>
National Song Week	Tree Planting Week
Naturalization Week	Virginia Week
Nature Study Week	Visual Education Week
Own Your Own Home Week	War on Tuberculosis Week
Parents' Week	Washington-Lincoln Week
Patriotic Week	World Court Week
	Y. M. C. A. Week
	Y. W. C. A. Week

CONVENTIONS *in* LOS ANGELES 1926

- January 12-14*—National Association of Minor Baseball Leagues
- January 19-21*—American Petroleum Institute
- January 19-20*—Association of Natural Gasoline Manufacturers
- January**—Los Angeles Furniture Market
- January**—Southern California Retail Bakers' Association
- February 1-5*—Pacific States Butter, Egg and Poultry Association
- February 8-13*—Los Angeles National Horse Show
- February 7-13*—The Tile and Mantel Contractors' Association of America
- February**—Dental Alumni Association of Southern California
- January**—Los Angeles Apparel Show
- March 23-25*—Southern California Retail Hardware Association
- March 18-19*—National Association of Harpists
- April 7-10*—Direct Mail Advertising Association—Western States
- April**—Associated Women Students' Conference of the Western States.
- April**—Deans of Women's Conference of Western States
- May 6-7*—Parent-Teachers' Federation, Tenth District
- May 18-20*—Association of Railway Claim Agents
- May**—California State Church Federation
- May**—United States Good Roads Association—Santa Monica
- June 1-5*—Motion Picture Theater Owners of America
- June 10-14*—International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons
- June 16-19*—National Association of Purchasing Agents and "Inform-a-Show"
- June 16-19*—State, County and Municipal Purchasing Agents' Association
- June**—Pacific Coast Electrical Association
- June**—State Association of Apartment House Owners
- June**—The Retail Credit Men's National Association
- June**—The Credit Service Exchange
- June**—American Orthopedic Society

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- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>June*</i> —International Association of Identification | <i>September*</i> —Pacific Coast Gas Association |
| <i>June 30-July 2</i> —National Editorial Association | <i>September*</i> —Gas Appliance Association and Exposition |
| <i>July 7-11</i> —Baptist Young People's Union of North America | <i>September*</i> —National Radio Exposition |
| <i>July*</i> —International Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union | <i>October 4-7</i> —Association of Bank Women |
| <i>July*</i> —Sign, Scene and Pictorial Painters' Association | <i>October 4-7</i> —Trust Company Section of American Bankers' Association |
| <i>August*</i> —California State Association of Identification | <i>October*</i> —Western States Taxpayers' Conference |
| <i>September*</i> —American Association of Traveling Passenger Agents | <i>November*</i> —Southern California Medical Society |
| <i>September*</i> —Pacific Coast Chiropractic Alumni and Lyceum | <i>December*</i> —California Teachers' Association, Southern States |

*Exact date of month undecided—Address CHARLES A. COOKE, *Manager Convention and Tourist Department*, LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, for further information; also for final verification of any date, as they are subject to change.

MASONIC HOLIDAYS

ROBERT BURNS' BIRTHDAY, *January 25*—Birthday of Robert Burns, born January 25, 1759. Robert Burns was a prominent Freemason and his birthday is widely celebrated by Scotchmen. Lodges have observed the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, *January 29*—Birthday of William McKinley, born January 29, 1843. McKinley's birthday anniversary is also known as Carnation Day. He was made a Mason in a Confederate Lodge at Winchester, Virginia, 1865, while a Major protecting and in charge of a Union Army hospital.

EASTER SUNDAY—Observed by the Knights Templar everywhere.

ASCENSION DAY—Also observed by Knights Templar with special ceremonies.

ST. JOHN'S DAY, *June 24* (St. John the Baptist)—Observed by Lodges of Master Masons.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MASONIC BIRTHDAY, *November 4*—Commemorates George Washington's Masonic Birthday, November 4, 1752. This event is being celebrated with increasing interest year after year.

CHRISTMAS DAY, *December 25*—Observed by Knights Templar, usually with a breakfast.

ST. JOHN, THE EVANGELIST'S DAY, *December 27*.

(We are indebted for the above information to CHARLES G. HUNT, Grand Secretary and Librarian, IOWA MASONIC LIBRARY, A. F. & A. M., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.)

SPECIAL MASONIC HOLIDAYS

MASTER MASONS—The outstanding holidays for Master Masons in the order of their importance and widespread observance are St. John, the Evangelist's Day, December 27; St. John the Baptist Day, June 24; George Washington's Masonic Birthday, November 4. January 25 and January 29 are recognized only locally in accordance with the particular interest these days have for members of Lodges.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR—The Knights Templar observe Easter Sunday, Ascension Day and Christmas very faithfully.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS—The outstanding observance on the part of Scottish Rite Masons is Maundy Thursday, and the following Easter Sunday, which has a complementary significance, is being more widely observed by Scottish Rite Masons than was the custom in former years.

BLUE LODGES—Blue Lodges individually celebrate various events of local interest, and are observing such movements as Constitution Week, Father and Son Week and similar occasions. These, however, are not strictly Masonic in term.

(We are indebted for the above information to CHARLES G. HUNT, Grand Secretary and Librarian, IOWA MASONIC LIBRARY, A. F. & A. M., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.)

CHURCH CALENDAR
Including Festivals and Fasts
1926

JANUARY

- 1 Circumcision
- 6 Epiphany
- 25 Conversion of St. Paul
- 31 Septuagesima Sunday

FEBRUARY

- 2 Purification
- 7 Sexagesima Sunday
- 14 Quinquagesima Sunday—
Shrove Sunday
- 16 Shrove Tuesday
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 21 Quadragesima Sunday
First Sunday in Lent

MARCH

- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 Passion Sunday
- 28 Palm Sunday

APRIL

- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 11 Low Sunday
- 23 St. George
- 25 St. Mark

MAY

- 1 St. Philip and St. James
- 9 Rogation Sunday
- 13 Ascension Day—
Holy Thursday
- 23 Pentecost—
Whitsunday
- 30 Trinity Sunday

JUNE

- 3 Corpus Christi
- 24 St. John the Baptist
- 29 St. Peter and St. Paul—
Chief Apostles

JULY

- 22 Mary Magdalen
- 25 St. James

AUGUST

- 1 Ninth Sunday after
Trinity
- 6 Transfiguration
- 24 St. Bartholomew
- 29 Thirteenth Sunday after
Trinity

SEPTEMBER

- 29 Michaelmas Day

OCTOBER

- 28 St. Simon and St. Jude

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 All Souls' Day
- 25 Thanksgiving Day
- 28 First Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER

- 5 Second Sunday in Advent
- 12 Third Sunday in Advent
- 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 21 St. Thomas Day
- 25 Christmas
- 26 St. Stephen—
First Sunday after
Christmas

DAYS of OBLIGATION and FAST

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Days of Obligation

Circumcision of Christ	<i>January 1</i>
Ascension Day	<i>May 13</i>
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>August 15</i>
All Saints' Day	<i>November 1</i>
Immaculate Conception	<i>December 8</i>
Christmas	<i>December 25</i>
All the Sundays of the Year	

Days of Fasting

Forty Days of Lent
Ember Days
Fridays of Four Weeks in Advent
Certain Vigils or Evenings prior to the Greater Feasts
All Fridays of the Year are days of abstinence from
flesh meat

AMERICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Days of Fasting

Forty Days of Lent
Ember Days
The Three Rogation Days
All Fridays of Year
(According to the Book of Common Prayer)

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Ember and Rogation Days (Days of Prayer and Fasting)

Ember Days, twelve annually:

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
After First Sunday in Lent
After Feast of Pentecost (Whitsunday)
After Festival of Holy Cross
After Festival of St. Lucia

Rogation Days:

Feast of St. Mark, April 25
Three days immediately preceding Ascension
Sunday

GREEK CHURCH

Days of Fasting

Forty Days in Lent
Week succeeding Whitsuntide
Fortnight before the Assumption
Forty Days before Christmas

JEWISH DAYS of IMPORTANCE

Years 5686-5687

A.D. 1926

5686 FIFTEEN DAYS IN SHEVAT	<i>January 30</i>
5686 FAST OF ESTHER	<i>February 25</i>
5686 PURIM	<i>February 28</i>
5686 PASSOVER	<i>March 30-April 6</i>
5686 LAG BA'OMER	<i>May 2</i>
5686 SHAVUOTH	<i>May 19-20</i>
5686 FAST OF SEVENTEENTH TAMMUZ	<i>June 29</i>
5686 FAST OF NINTH AB	<i>July 20</i>
5687 ROSH HASHANA	<i>September 9-10</i>
5687 FAST OF GEDALIAH	<i>September 11</i>
5687 YOM KIPPUR	<i>September 18</i>
5687 SUCCOTH	<i>September 23-29</i>
5687 SH'MINI ATZERETH	<i>September 30</i>
5687 SHIMCHATH TORAH	<i>October 1</i>
5687 CHANUKAH	<i>December 1-8</i>
5687 FAST OF TENTH TEBETH	<i>December 15</i>

HEBREW CALENDAR

YEAR	MONTH	MONTH BEGINS
5686	SHEBAT	<i>January 15</i>
5686	ADAR	<i>February 14</i>
5686	NISAN	<i>March 15</i>
5686	IYAR	<i>April 14</i>
5686	SIVAN	<i>May 13</i>
5686	TAMMUZ	<i>June 12</i>
5686	AB	<i>July 12</i>
5686	ELUL	<i>August 11</i>
5687	TISHRI	<i>September 9</i>
5687	HESHVAN	<i>October 9</i>
5687	KISLEV	<i>November 7</i>
5687	TEBETH	<i>December 6</i>

JEWISH DAYS of IMPORTANCE and WHY

Years 5686-5687

A.D. 1926

FIFTEEN DAYS IN SHEVAT, *January 30*—New Year for Trees. Celebrated by eating of fruit and by special ritual and practices.

FAST OF ESTHER, *February 25*—Kept in commemoration of the Fast of Esther, Queen to Ahasuerus of Persia and deliveress of her people from peril.

PURIM, *February 28*—An occasion of feasting and celebration to mark the joyful event related in the book of Esther.

PASSOVER, *March 30-April 6*—The Feast of Unleavened Bread held in celebration of the liberation of Israel from Egypt. It lasts seven days, the last day being a high holiday.

LAG BA'OMER, *May 2*—The day of the Offering at Harvest before which, in biblical times, none were allowed to eat of the newly harvested grain.

SHAVUOTH, *May 19-20*—Festival of Weeks or the Feast of the Harvest, marked by abstention from hard labor and holy services.

FAST OF 17TH OF TAMMUZ, *June 29*—Marks the breaking of the holy tablets, the burning of the law and the desecration of the Temple.

FAST OF 9TH OF AB, *July 20*—This is the anniversary day of the destruction of the Temple. Jerusalem was plowed over and the Hebrews exiled.

ROSH HASHANA, *September 9-10*—The New Year Festival and a very solemn occasion. Reform congregations celebrate only one day. Held by tradition to be the anniversary of the day upon which God created the earth.

FAST OF 17TH OF TAMUZ, *June 29*—Marks the breaking of the holy tablets, the burning of the law and the Temple.

FAST OF GEDALIAH, *September 11*—Held on the date of the assassination of a respected Jewish leader and his associates.

YOM KIPPUR, *September 18*—Day of Atonement. The most holy day of the year. A complete fast is observed and services extend from early in the morning until after dark.

SUCCOTH, *September 23-29*—Feast of Tabernacles. The first day is a holy convocation and the period of eight days is observed by the erection of booths and feasting in them.

SH'MINI ATZERETH, *September 30*—The Eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles. A holy convocation marks this.

SEMCHATH TORAH, *October 1*—Celebration of the Law. The last of the cycle of Pentateuchal lessons is concluded and a new cycle begun.

CHANUKAH, *December 1-8*—Festival of Lights. On these days is celebrated the recapture of the Temple and the relighting of the Temple Lamp.

GREEK CHURCH *and*
RUSSIAN CALENDAR

A.M. 8035

A.D. 1926

Circumcision	<i>January 1</i>
Theophany (Epiphany)	<i>January 6</i>
Hypapante (Purification)	<i>February 2</i>
Great Lent Begins	<i>February 17</i>
Annunciation	<i>March 25</i>
Palm Sunday	<i>March 28</i>
Great Friday and holy services.	<i>April 2</i>
Holy Pasch (Easter)	<i>April 4</i>
St. George	<i>April 23</i>
Ascension	<i>May 13</i>
Pentecost	<i>May 23</i>
Holy Ghost	<i>June 24</i>
Peter and Paul (Chief Apostles)	<i>June 29</i>
Transfiguration	<i>August 6</i>
Repose of Theotokos	<i>August 15</i>
St. Alexander Nevsky*	<i>August 30</i>
Nativity of Theotokos (Assumption)	<i>September 8</i>
Exaltation of Cross	<i>September 14</i>
Patronage of Theotokos	<i>October 1</i>
First Day Fast of Theotokos	<i>November 15</i>
Entrance of Theotokos	<i>November 21</i>
Conception of Theotokos	<i>December 9</i>
Nativity (Christmas)	<i>December 25</i>

*Peculiar to Russia

MOHAMMEDAN CALENDAR

Years 1344-1345

A.D. 1926

YEAR	MONTH	MONTH BEGINS
1344	RAJAB	<i>January 15, 1926</i>
1344	SHAABAN	<i>February 14, 1926</i>
1344	RAMADAN	<i>March 15, 1926</i>
1344	SHAWALL	<i>April 14, 1926</i>
1344	DULKAADA	<i>May 13, 1926</i>
1344	DULHEGGIA	<i>June 12, 1926</i>
1345	MUHARRAM (NEW YEAR)	<i>July 12, 1926</i>
1345	SAPHAR	<i>August 11, 1926</i>
1345	RABIA I	<i>September 9, 1926</i>
1345	RABIA II	<i>October 9, 1926</i>
1345	JOMADI I	<i>November 7, 1926</i>
1345	JOMADI II	<i>December 7, 1926</i>

The month Ramadan is the month of abstinence observed by the Turks.

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES

1926

DOMINICAL LETTER	C	ROMAN INDICTION	9
EPACT (MOON'S AGE, January 1)	16	JULIAN PERIOD	6639
GOLDEN NUMBER	8	DIONYSIAN PERIOD	255
SOLAR CYCLE	3	JEWISH LUNAR CYCLE	5

THE JEWISH ERA, year 5687, begins at sunset of September 8th.

THE MOHAMMEDAN ERA, year 1345, begins at sunset of July 11th.

CHINESE FASTS *and* FESTIVALS

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY—Four days' celebration, beginning the first day of the first moon.

CHINESE DRAGON FESTIVAL—Fifth day of the fifth moon.

CHINESE MOON FESTIVAL—Fifteenth day of eighth moon.

CHINESE CALENDAR dates each month from advent of new moon, each a lunar month. One month is added in every thirty, so that Chinese New Year may occur any time between the 21st of January and the last of February, during the succeeding years.

JAPANESE NEW YEAR

JAPANESE NEW YEAR begins at the same time as ours, they having recently adopted the Gregorian Calendar.

GREETING CARD DAYS

*Commemorated by the Beautiful Custom
of Sending Greeting Cards*

NEW YEAR'S DAY	January 1
ST. VALENTINE'S DAY	February 14
EASTER DAY	April 4
MOTHER'S DAY	May 9
FATHER'S DAY	June 21
FRIENDSHIP DAY	August 2
HALLOWE'EN	October 31
THANKSGIVING DAY	November 25
CHRISTMAS	December 25

*Also Every Day, Which is Somebody's Birthday,
Wedding Anniversary or Other Occasion
for Good Wishes*

*"Scatter Sunshine with Greeting Cards" is the Happy
Motto of Greeting Card Dispensers*

(Dates above are for 1926)

The BOOK *of*
HOLIDAYS

Why

THE HIGHEST type of mind is that which
seeks to know the reason why.

—AUTHOR.

CHRONOGRAPHY

Holidays, Holy Days, Feasts, Fasts, Festivals and Fiestas, Special Days, Special Events and Days of Memorable Note

ADMISSION DAY—California's Birthday of Statehood, *September 9, 1850*. Universally observed and commemorated throughout the State.

ADVENT, FIRST SUNDAY IN, *November 28, 1926*—

Advent is a preparation for Christmas, as Lent is a preparation for Easter. Date varies yearly, beginning with the nearest Sunday to the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30. Recognized by Roman, Greek, Lutheran and Anglican Churches. Originally in some churches forty days of fasting was observed. Now Fridays only being designated as fast days. Six Sundays are included in the Greek Church, and four in others. In early days Advent was marked with peculiar beliefs and customs, including the drawing of a stick of wood from a pile, and thus determining by its character, straight or knotty, the kind of a mate to be expected matrimonially. If the stick happened to be gnarled it meant a "knotty" problem to solve.

ALL-FOOLS' DAY, *April 1*—While not a holiday by state enactment, April Fools' Day is a holiday of state in the mind of Young America. No one seems to know when the custom of the purse with string attached, the hat concealing the brickbat, or the soapy-center chocolate first came into being. We do know that these April Fool instruments and their kin have been in evidence for not only years but centuries. In England April

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Fool customs are of record as early as 1713, and in France even prior to that date. One historian cites the first April Fools' Day as that on which Noah sent forth the dove from the Ark.

ALL SAINTS' DAY, *November 1*—A day observed in honor of all saints and martyrs, including the lesser saints having no day specially set apart for them. The Greek Church observed this day so early as the fourth century. (The eve of this day is Hallowe'en, to which heading in this Chronography the attention of the reader is directed.) All Saints' Day is the eve of All Souls' Day.

ALL SOULS' DAY, *November 2*—A festival of the Roman Catholic Church distinguished by solemn commemoration of, and prayer for, all the souls in purgatory. The day is aptly likened also to an universal Decoration Day in that it has for its foundation the memory of all departed souls.

ANGELUS—The name given to the Catholic practice of reciting at morning, noon and evening three Hail Marys, together with sentences expressive of rejoicing trust in the mystery of Incarnation. The Angelus bell rings at six a.m.; twelve, noon; and six p.m. It has been a recognized custom since 1416. Millet's famous picture represents the Angelus.

ARBOR DAY—In most States of the Union, and in portions of Canada, Arbor Day is a fixed day upon which the citizens, the magistrates, the school children and others plant trees and shrubs along roadsides and in other suitable places. General observance in the United States has been the custom for over fifty years, the date varying in different States. In California it falls upon March 7, in honor of Luther Burbank's birthday.

ARMISTICE DAY—In honor of the most eventful day in world history—November 11, 1918, terminating the World War by the signing of the Armistice on that date.

ART EXHIBITIONS—Permanent Art exhibits open to visitors daily at Otis Art Institute and State Exposition Park Galleries, Los Angeles; also wonderful art exhibits at Laguna Beach, Santa Barbara and Pasadena.

ART POSTER SHOWS—From 1890 to 1900 the Graphic Arts of America showed marked progress in illustrations in color. The Century Company, publishers of the Century Magazine, fostered the movement of inducing artists and painters of renown to enter the commercial field by allowing their work to be reproduced in color from engravings and wood-cut plates. Magazines which for years had retained one and only one severely plain title or cover page soon adopted the idea of changing the design with an Art Poster cover monthly. This design enlarged was used in turn to advertise the forthcoming issue. Will Bradley, Maxfield Parrish, Ethel Reid, Louis Rhead, Edward Penfield, Mucha, Eugene Grasset, Beardsley, Leyendecker and scores of other famous artists today owe their rise and prominence to this custom and period. The Century did not change its own cover page, but used the Art Poster to herald a series of articles on the Life of Napoleon which it then featured. The Literary Digest was one of the last of the old school magazines to adopt an illustrated cover in color. Art Poster Shows came in vogue to help popularize the custom and advance Commercial Art and many wonderful exhibitions were held. The first Art Poster Show held in the West was hung at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1896, and contained original drawings for Art Posters and Magazine Covers from most all the above mentioned artists and many others. This event was conceived and promoted by the author of this, *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS*. Staged for a full week, it is here recorded as one of the first Holiday Festivals to be held in the interests of Commercial Art in Western America. Artists' Bal Masques by Commercial Artists have been mid-winter events of prominence on the Pacific Coast

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for several years. Many wonderful Art Posters are hung in the exhibits, costumes are works of creative genius and the events are usually of remarkable merit.

ARTISTS' BAL MASQUE (See Art Poster Shows)—A gala mid-winter event in Southern California sponsored by Commercial Artists' Associations.

ASCENSION DAY, May 13, 1926—*Holy Thursday* (date varies yearly). Celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday in honor of the ascension of the Messiah into heaven forty days after His resurrection. It is one of the oldest festivals of the Church, its institution being attributed to the apostles.

ASH WEDNESDAY, May 17, 1926 (Date varies yearly)—The first day of Lent in modern observance. Name refers to penitential sackcloth and ashes.

BACHELORS' HOLIDAYS—In the United States approximately 59 per cent of the male population of marriageable age *are* married; 36 per cent *are bachelors*; four per cent *are widowed*; and approximately one per cent *are divorced*.

BANK HOLIDAYS—Banks observe all State legal holidays primarily because all parties to negotiable paper are by law exempted from presentation or payment on a legal holiday. Including Saturday half-holidays, bank full-day holidays and Sundays, banks are closed an average of ninety days out of the 365 days of the year. The first Bank holiday laws were enacted in Great Britain and included, in addition to regularly observed holidays, a special three-day holiday (including Sunday) in August. Election days generally in the United States are State legal holidays. (See HOLIDAYS OF STATES. See also SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAYS.)

BARBECUE—Since the Barbecue is to a holiday outing in California almost as much as the day itself it may prove interesting to learn that the word is from the Spanish, meaning "to support meat or fish over a fire."

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Georgia is the natural home of the barbecue, according to D. Allen Willey. He says, "It is what the clam-bake is to Rhode Island, what roast-beef is to the English, what canvas-back duck is to the Marylander, and what a pork-and-bean supper is to a Bostonian."

BIRTHDAYS—The celebration of the anniversary of an individual's birth, though customary among the ancients, was originally frowned upon by the Christians, according to history. Church festivals commemorated death-days, not birthdays. But some of the so-called heathenish customs were gradually accepted, and later, when the full significance of the birth of Christ became recognized, birthday celebrations in honor of individuals became a custom.

BIRTH STONES—The birth stones as authorized by the American Jewelers' Association are as follows: January, Garnet; February, Amethyst; March, Aqua Marine, Bloodstone; April, Diamond; May, Emerald; June, Pearl, Moonstone; July, Ruby; August, Moonstone, Peridot; September, Sapphire; October, Opal, Tourmaline; November, Topaz; December, Turquoise, Lapis Lazuli.

BLACK MONDAY—In England the title was first given to Easter Monday, April 14, 1360, "a cold, bitter, disastrous day to Edward III and his hosts before the City of Paris." Shakespeare uses Black Monday as a reference to Easter Monday. In general it became the custom to refer to the opening day of school as Black Monday.

BLUE MONDAY—See **ST. MONDAY**.

BUNKER HILL DAY, *June 17*—Known colloquially as Boston's Fourth of July. Commemorating the Battle of Bunker Hill, it is celebrated with great pomp throughout Massachusetts.

BURBANK'S BIRTHDAY, *March 7*—Arbor Day in California, in honor of her noted son, Luther Burbank, the man greatest of all in the "World of Garden, Orchard, Farm, Field, Flower and Forest."

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BURNS' FESTIVAL, January 25—A celebration in honor of Robert Burns, the great lyric poet of Scotland, who was born January 25, 1759. Universally celebrated wherever there is a "wee bit o' Scotch" not only in the blood but in the heart as well. Burns anticipated this annual festival for, in 1786, he wrote: "I am in a fair way of becoming eminent for you may expect henceforth to see my birthday inscribed among the wonderful events in the Poor Robin and Aberdeen-Almanacks along with Black Monday and the Battle of Bothwell Bridge." Robert Burns' Birthday is celebrated by Masonic Lodges with appropriate ceremonies, he having been a prominent Freemason. Of Robert Burns, our own John Steven McGroarty says: "Among the six greatest poets of all time the name of Robert Burns stands in the van, and always will. Scotland hugs his name and songs to its hungry heart. He is Scotland and Scotland is Burns."

CALENDAR—A noted authority defines calendar as "the standard by which aggregations of human beings agree to measure years, months and days. Every Protestant and Roman Catholic nation now accepts the Gregorian calendar." Japan has recently adopted it. The Greek Church adheres to the Julian calendar. The Jews, Mohammedans and Chinese each have a different calendar. Readers interested are invited to read carefully the various descriptions under the heading recorded in the Encyclopedia. Each calendar has direct bearing upon special days mentioned in this *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS*, but space forbids the detailed chronicles of the various systems of calculation.

CANDLEMAS DAY, February 2—(See also PURIFICATION.) In England it is a general holiday; in Scotland a day of gift presentation by children to teachers, and a football contest day by adults; also a day of weather prognostication. The date and association evidently is the source of the origin of Groundhog Day in America.

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CANDLES—Candles are used in religious ceremonies by reason of the most ancient custom in worship. An old legend of non-ecclesiastical origin asserts that "bees derive their origin from Paradise and are especially blessed by the Almighty." Therefore, it was held, the wax from which candles were then made was a blessed dispensation of divine origin. The candles of the Christmas trees of earlier days have been supplanted by colored electric lights in the interest of public safety. The candle is the prevailing motif in Christmas decorative art.

CARNIVAL—Carnival derives its name from "farewell meat"; a period of feasting, license and merrymaking immediately preceding Lent. Each State has a particular Carnival Season, the oldest being the New Orleans Carnival or Mardi Gras, established in 1830. In Southern California the Tournament of Roses at Pasadena on New Year's Day is widely known as a National Carnival Spectacle of the highest order.

CARNIVAL KING AND QUEEN—The flesh and blood King and Queen of the Carnival is purely an American innovation, according to historians. In European countries the King of Carnival was invariably in effigy. The dummy was burned with ceremonials, the body being stuffed with fireworks. King Rex, of the New Orleans Mardi Gras, enjoys the distinction of being one of the first to reign as real King of the Carnival. From this custom we have evolved the election or selection of the "most popular" lady or gentleman in a community to serve as Queen or King in Carnivals, Fiestas, and similar events.

CAROLS—For centuries carols of joyful songs for festive occasions have been in vogue, and especially for Christmas celebrations. Carols were originally accompanied by dancing.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXHIBIT—Rare exhibits open daily to visitors at Chamber of Commerce Build-

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ing, Los Angeles, California. Chambers of Commerce are maintained by every city, and *all* welcome visitors cordially.

CHARIVARI, CHIVAREE or SHIVAREE—Not such a general custom with Young America today, but Old America recalls the event of Shivarree as of first importance at some time in his life. It was the penalty for marriage, and consisted of pandemonium. As one has written: "All Hell broke loose the night we were married and it cost five boxes of cigars and twenty dollars in cash to quell it." It was simply mob music upon improvised utensils at hand, and today would bring the participants to the bar of justice forthwith for "malicious disturbance of peace." But it is here made of record that Shivarrees were once a part of the Calendar of American Holiday events.

CHERRY FESTIVAL—The annual Cherry Festival, though in the present day a commercial promotion day or week, can trace its origin to the siege of Hamburg in 1432, when "throngs of hungry children asking for food and mercy so touched the heart of the warriors that they were given branches of cherries and peace negotiations entered into in consequence." England, in cherry-time, continues the custom of the Cherry Fair. On the Pacific Coast "Cherry Blossom Time" as well as "Cherry Time" is made a beautiful season in certain localities.

CHICAGO DAY, *October 9*—Anniversary day of the Chicago Fire in 1871. Given notation here, because in California, the greatest proportion of population traces State nativity back to Illinois, and covers the period since the Great Chicago Fire. In Chicago it is observed as a civic holiday.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE NEW YEAR—(See **NEW YEAR'S DAY**.)

CHRISTMAS, *December 25*—The greatest holiday—the universally recognized festival—the reputed anniver-

sary of the birth of Jesus Christ—recognized by Protestant, Catholic and Greek Churches—a day of thanksgiving, of rejoicing, of home-coming, feasting, gift-giving and merry-making and charity everywhere. Great as the holiday is, nobody knows who first celebrated it or how, and nobody knows if December 25 is the exact anniversary date of Christ's birth. In early days the celebration of birthdays was looked upon as heathenish. Early historians credit the celebration to pagan origin, and the first Christmas Day celebrations recorded were indeed "heathenish" in the extreme. To-day and for past centuries Christmas has been the day of days to the children of many lands. St. Nicholas reigns supreme as the giver of gifts to all good children. The origin of St. Nicholas, from which came St. Nick, Saint Klaus, and Santa Claus, is traced to the patron saint of Russia about 300 A.D. St. Nicholas was a bishop of Asia Minor, and as a bearer of gifts for children his name has been corrupted to Santa Claus. The Christmas stocking very early became the recognized receptacle for gifts "the night before Christmas, when all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." Stockings were not only very handy as containers, but were the first articles of apparel sought upon arising. The Christmas Tree of evergreen, as well as the Holly and Christmas greenery, are of ancient origin, it having been the custom to decorate all temples at festival time with the green of field and forest. But the evergreen Christmas Tree has also the Church significance of "The Tree of Life"; the candles the "Light of the World." The Mistletoe was once recognized as the symbol of special privilege or indulgence, it being carried in processional at certain Druidical rites in the sacred temples. The Holly was early accepted as a Christmas symbol, it being more prevalent in growth, especially in early England days, and with its profusion of red berries soon became the recognized emblem of good cheer. Christmas Greeting Cards mark the *first* of modern special day

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Greeting Cards, so much in vogue now. The first Christmas Cards, or Letters, for such they were, consisted of wishing the recipient a "Merrie Christmas" in verse form, and were embellished with pen flourishes. The first printed Christmas Cards of record were issued in London in 1846, in the United States in 1862, and for many years thereafter they were confined to Christmas and New Year's Greetings only. The word "Yule" in connection with Christmas, is said by one historian "to mean nothing certain except that it means Christmas." Another authority states that in early days "Yule" had the significance of "wheel" or the turning point of the seasons. To announce the advent of the seasons, at the opening of each, a wheel of wood aflame would be allowed to roll down the hillside at night. From this burning piece of timber we trace the Yule-log not only in this connection, but also because it was invariably so large that it had to be "wheeled" to the fireplace. It was considered an omen of all-year good luck to preserve a bit of the old Yule-log with which to start the blaze of that to be used the succeeding Christmas. Christmas Bells in connection with decorations are significant of "proclaiming joy" and "a summons to the people." Christmas Carols are of early biblical significance and signify the tribute of "glory and honor in the highest." The Christmas Star is significant of the Star of Bethlehem and "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." Every present Christmas Day custom has some beautiful significance and the underlying message on this day is that of expressing gratitude in one form or another. The home of the Patron Saint of Gratitude is supposed to be away up north in ice and cold where, like a bear, he hibernates until just before Christmas. Then with his reindeer, for his is also the home of reindeer, he comes jingling to all, surpassing in speed and schedule all modern means of transportation. Hence, our Kris Kringle, jingling bells and the tiny reindeer, the tender and loving memory of which prompts 'most every one of us to delightfully perpetuate. For, are we not all just children grown tall, after all?

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CHRISTMAS TREE—Many are the various legends regarding the origin of the Christmas Tree. One will suffice: "Martin Luther, one Christmas Eve, travelling alone over the snow-covered country, was so impressed with the beauty of landscape and sky with its thousands of glittering stars, that upon arriving home he attempted to describe the beauty to his wife and children. Suddenly an idea seized him. He went to the garden, cut off a small fir-tree, dragged it into the nursery, put some candles on the branches and lighted them." And the Christmas Tree lived happily ever thereafter.

CHURCH CALENDAR—The days, with dates, which are observed by various Churches. (See numerous Church Calendars on preceding pages.)

CIRCUMCISION, January 1—Held in the Roman Catholic Church as the festival of *Circumcisio Domini*. Certain saints are honored on this day. Observed in other churches on various dates. Based upon Genesis XVII, 9-14. God gave Abraham the command to circumcise every male child on the eighth day after birth, "and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you." By the Jews circumcision is still practiced with all the ancient ceremonies. By Mohammedans it is practiced at the time the boy is old enough to make profession of faith; by others purely as a method of promoting health.

COBBLERS' MONDAY—It is asserted in folk-lore that in early England days the cobblers and shoemakers required a weekly holiday every Monday. It was said that they did so in order to be sure and not miss celebrating St. Crispin's Day which fell on a certain Monday, *which* Monday they knew not. Folk-songs therefore picture the life of the early cobbler as "one continual round of pleasure."

COLUMBUS DAY, October 12—America's Anniversary Day in honor of Christopher Columbus and his discovery of America, October 12, 1492.

COLLOP MONDAY—The Monday before Shrove Tuesday, so called because it was the last day of meat-eating

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before Lent. Collop Monday is said to have been of heathen origin, being a day devoted to Bacchus. It was the custom to write verses to Bacchus on Collop Monday. Verse writers still commemorate the day, but do not confine their tributes to the god of wine. In some localities Collop Monday is celebrated as Poets' Day and contests of first readings are staged very interestingly.

COMMENCEMENT DAY—Graduation day—the day graduates "commence" life as doctors, lawyers, scientists, engineers, business men, etc. Many fail to understand the day other than that of the *ending* of college or school days. In life they quickly find it is really *commencement* in a way they little dreamed of.

CONFETTI—Originally confetti was confectionery, small round pellets of candy, used in showering participants in Masque Ball and Carnival events. Colored paper confetti owes its origin to this custom, and is a marked feature of Carnival Nights throughout America. The custom is of Italian and French origin and a very old one.

CONTRACTS ON HOLIDAYS—Contracts made and entered into upon a holiday *are valid* in the State of California.

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, *January 25*—A church feast commemorating the anniversary of the conversion of St. Paul. In Great Britain and Europe this feast day has especial significance as a prognosticator of the weather for the entire ensuing year, similar to Groundhog Day in America.

COOLIDGE'S BIRTHDAY—The birthday of Calvin Coolidge, thirtieth President of the United States, always will be celebrated as a holiday. He was born on the Fourth of July, in the year 1872, at Plymouth, Vermont. His baptismal name was John Calvin.

CORN DANCE—What would be a BOOK of the HOLIDAYS without at least one reference to the Holiday of

the Pioneers of All America—the American Indian? The Corn Dance is one of the most ancient of all North American Indian festivals. It is held about the end of August, a sort of Thanksgiving event. A painted warrior rides over the reservation proclaiming the event. Fantastically arrayed, all able to travel assemble at the Feast. The "Feast" formerly consisted of dog-meat, cabbage and succotash. Then "on with the dance" by the males, with the females seated in a circle about them. The dance out-classed our present "Charleston" and in fact was an exaggerated "cake walk." The tom-toms, forerunner of our present jazz, added fervor as well as fever to the Dance. Certain tribes of Indians celebrate this Corn Dance to-day as a great holiday event.

CORPUS CHRISTI, *June 3, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) One of the greatest festivals of the Catholic Church, and also celebrated in all countries with processions, parades, plays and feasting. Name signifies "Body of Christ." Event in Church circles is in honor of the doctrine of transubstantiation (the changing of the bread and wine of the body of Christ as exemplified by the eucharist, or Lord's Supper, the institution of which event it also commemorates.) The date falls on second Thursday after Whitsunday.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION AND FAST—(See list of same.)

DAYS OF THE WEEK—The English names of the seven days of the week are derived from names of pagan dieties, or natural objects of worship to which each day was dedicated; thus:—*Sunday*, Sun's day. *Monday*, Moon's day. *Tuesday*, from Tuisto or Tuesco, a Saxon god. *Wednesday*, Woden's day from Odin or Woden, also a Saxon idol. *Thursday*, Thor's day. Thor was worshipped by all the Northern European nations. *Friday*, Friga's day, from Friga, the Scandinavian Venus. *Saturday*, Saturn's day.

DECORATION DAY, *May 30*—A day set apart by statute in most states as a day for decorating the graves

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of those who have served in defense of their country. Decoration Day was inaugurated at the close of the Civil War. The growth was a gradual one. At the close of the Spanish-American War it came into more universal observance. Since the World War it has been the day of days for "honoring the glorified dead who consecrated themselves to their country." Military parades and pageants, oratorical tributes and public gatherings have long been the order on Decoration Day, or Memorial Day, as it is also appropriately named.

DERBY DAY—Racing holidays are not so much in vogue in America as of yore, but every race-meet must have a Derby Day. Derby Day owes its origin to England and the name is not in honor of the English "bowler" hat. The memory of Lord Derby, the title of the eleventh Earl of Derby, who founded the annual racing event in 1779, is thus commemorated.

DIONYSIAN PERIOD—A period of lunar calculation consisting of 532 Julian years of 365 days and six hours each. Used before the Gregorian period to calculate Easter dates.

DOMINICAL LETTER—A letter of one of the first seven in the alphabet denoting the day of the week upon which the year begins. A tabular help for calculating the date upon which Easter falls in any given year.

EASTER, April 4, 1926—(Date varies yearly, it being established by lunar or moon phase calculations.) Easter is the Sunday on which Christian Churches commemorate the resurrection of Christ. The name is derived from the Goddess Eastre, the personification of the East, of morning, of spring. The date, it was first determined, must invariably fall on the first Sunday after the fourteenth day of the moon that happens to be reigning at the time of the vernal equinox. So difficult was this calculation that it has led to occasional mistakes, as that of the year 1818 when Easter was kept on the wrong day. A long series of ecclesiastical dates

from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday, and the Sundays after Trinity, are contingent upon the date set for Easter yearly. That is the reason for the year 1926 being included in this Chronography after all of the recorded days the date of which varies yearly. Easter may come as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. It will fall upon April 17 in 1927, on April 8 in 1928, March 31, 1929, and April 20, 1930. Easter marks the end of Lent, the period of fasting and social retirement. Thus society generally unites with the Church in making Easter a marked day. It is the advent of spring and thus do we trace the custom of donning of new apparel on Easter Day. With children the Easter hare (B'rer Rabbit) is almost as significant as Santa Claus. He is supposed to steal into the house on Easter eve and leave secreted in odd places colored eggs for all good children. Just why the white rabbit is connected with this custom is of interest: The rabbit is nocturnal in habit, coming out at night. The female carries its young for one month, thus representing the lunar cycle. Therefore the hare was in olden days the symbol of the moon. The meaning of the root word "*un*" of "hare" is "to open" and also "period." Thus the breaking of the Easter egg has the significance of "opening the new period marked by Easter." The hare is modernized in America by the word rabbit. From this Easter connection of the power of the rabbit for good or bad we trace the negro superstition of the "left hind foot of a graveyard rabbit killed in the dark of the moon." The sending of Greeting Cards, floral tributes, Easter Lilies (significant of purity and resurrection), Easter Gifts, and various other customs, including Egg Rolling on the White House lawn, popularize Easter as a marked holiday throughout the United States.

EMBER DAYS—Days of periodical fasting and prayer. Name signifying "repeating at certain fixed periods." Twelve of these days are observed annually as noted in Calendar of Days of Church Obligations and Fast.

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EPACT—The Moon's age, being used to indicate the number of days the last new moon has preceded the New Year, a very necessary thing to know in calculating Easter, and many Holy Days contingent, in properly dating.

EPIPHANY, *January 6*—Meaning "manifestation" or "appearance." A church festival celebrated the twelfth day after Christmas, hence popularly known in England as Twelfth Night. Is the anniversary of three different occasions whereon Christ manifested His glory.

FAIRS—The origin of Fairs, an assemblage of men, women and children, for the purpose of traffic, barter, exhibition of products and amusement, originated in Ancient Egypt. That the fakir, the side-show and the pickpocket were in evidence at Fairs in early English days is marked in history as early as 1697 when a proclamation was issued by the Lord Mayor suppressing certain vicious practices at the Bartholomew Fair, and in 1701 this Fair was declared a nuisance by the Grand Jury of London. However, the Annual event was continued with modification for over 150 years thereafter. At the Greenwich Fair the dancing booth was so large that three bands, stationed at different parts of the auditorium, were required to sufficiently broadcast the music.

FATHER'S DAY, *June 21*—Shortly after the general custom of observing Mother's Day in the United States popular demand elected a special day for felicitating Fathers. At first the proposal brought forth much wit and jest in comments, but the day is now observed in keeping with the beauty and honor of fatherhood.

FEAST OF BANNERS, *May 5*—A Japanese holiday in honor of male children, celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month, now accepted as May 5. Every household that can boast of a male child displays this day on a bamboo pole a gaudy fish made of paper—a fish for each son—a school of fishes for some families. The fish are supposed to be carp which in Japan is the symbol of health and long life.

FEAST OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS, *October 9*—A festival of Japanese origin, from which we derive our annual Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Shows in the West. In Japan, however, they scattered Chrysanthemum leaves in their tea on the date and had a real Feast of Flowers, which was supposed to prolong life and strength.

FESTIVAL OF DOLLS—A Japanese Festival devoted especially to girls. It is a very beautiful event, occurring at peach-blossom time, about April 30. The girls are daintily dressed and decorated as dolls and, after the dolls' feasting and play-time, adults continue the celebration with a banquet in the evening.

FESTIVAL OF THE UNFORGOTTEN DEAD—The Chinese All Souls' Day or Decoration Day. Incense, food, clothing and money are placed in offering to the spirit of the departed. The date is contingent upon certain phases of the moon.

FLAG DAY, *June 14*—The anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes by the Continental Congress in the year 1777. Observed in many states as a holiday, and particularly observed in all public schools by appropriate ceremony and program. The first recognition of Flag Day by the New York Schools was on June 14.

FOREFATHERS' DAY, *December 22*—Celebrated in New England and by New England Societies in honor of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620.

FRANKLIN'S BIRTHDAY, *January 17*—Benjamin Franklin, Printer, Inventor, Author, Statesman and Philosopher, the Printer's Patron Saint, born in Boston, Massachusetts, on the sixth day of January, old style, equivalent to the seventeenth of that month, 1706; died April 17, 1790. Franklin's Birthday is generally commemorated by Printers and Publishers Associations and Clubs of Printing House Craftsmen by a Franklin Day Banquet, it being their greatest festival event of the

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entire year. Benjamin Franklin was the twenty-fifth signer of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin was the American founder of Almanacs, Date Books, Year Books and all publications similar to *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS*, he having issued the first number of *Poor Richard's Almanac* under the name of Richard Saunders in 1733 which publication was issued annually for twenty-five succeeding years. However, in England as early as 1697 *Poor Robin's Almanac* was popular. Evidently Franklin devised the name of his publication from this source.

FRIENDSHIP DAY, August 2—While Friendship Day has for its inception the motto of the Greeting Card Dealers Association, "Scatter Sunshine with Greeting Cards," it is nevertheless a beautiful and universally observed season of felicitation, messages and acts of friendliness. It is a sort of Mid-Summer Christmas.

GENERAL ELECTION DAY—Election Days are universally recognized as holidays in banking circles. General Election Day is a legal holiday in practically every state. (See **GENERAL ELECTION DAY** under *Legal or Public Holidays in the United States*.)

GOLDEN NUMBER—The number of any year in the nineteen years of each lunar cycle. Absolutely necessary to know in calculating the date of Easter and contingent lunar dates.

GOLDEN RULE SUNDAY—First Sunday in December, on behalf of the orphans of the Near East.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 1926—(Date changes yearly, it being the Friday in Holy Week, next preceding Easter Sunday.) Its name is probably derived from the good things which Christ gained for us by His suffering and death. A gala day, before and after church attendance, in England and Scotland. An old custom in some villages was the rope-skipping contests. The Hot-Cross Bun of Good Friday is one of the old customs coming down to

us and still generally recognized. The bun, made of dough richly spiced, marked with incision in form of a cross, baked on the morning of Good Friday, was the prevailing delicacy of the day. With it came the belief that bread baked on Good Friday would never mould. Historians lament that the quality of Hot-Cross Buns of later generations never seem to have equaled those of old. To Californians it will be interesting to note that Good Friday of 1587, marks in London the inauguration of the first Raisin Day: Complying with the will of Peter Symonds, "After the Good Friday sermon to be preached to the boys of Blue-Coat School sixty new pennies and sixty packets of raisins were to be distributed among them." Under the same will (1587) on Good Friday the children of Langbourn Ward schools were each to be given sums ranging from one penny to a shilling and each was to receive a Hot-Cross Bun. The custom continued for many years. The marking of a cross on the buns originated with an early day custom of thus consecrating them by Christian clergy.

GREGORIAN CALENDAR—(See NEW YEAR'S DAY.)

GROUNDHOG DAY, *February 2*—America's day of weather prognostication, based upon the popular belief that if the groundhog should see his shadow on that date six weeks more of winter must be expected and provided for. An old German proverb is that a shepherd would rather see a wolf enter his stable on Candlemas Day (our Groundhog Day) than the sun. Groundhog Day has no especial significance on the Pacific Coast, save the memory of association with former days "back east."

HALLOWE'EN, *October 31*—The name comes from "All-Hallow Even" meaning the "holy eve" of All Saints' Day. It is the night when witches and goblins are supposed to hold complete sway. The observance comes to us from over 2,000 years ago, having been the autumn festival of the Ancient Druidic times. It was also a

Roman festival in honor of Pomona, goddess of fruit and gardens. Romance of Hallowe'en comes from old pagan customs, and so we bob for apples, throw peelings over our shoulders, look in the mirror by candle light in a darkened room and do many other unusual things. The author of this Chronography believes that the custom of noise and din as well as "rough house stuff" and pranks of kids is directly traceable to the old "Rin-Tan-Tan" festival observed in early days in England upon October 28. He finds records of this festival as having been celebrated by parades, continuing nightly for ten nights, in which "rough music," as it was called, was executed with pots, pans, pokers and all sorts of similar utensils. From the festival we also derive the term "rough-house" for it was the custom to ride upon a rail, or in a chair held aloft, the suspected wife beater, entering his house by force and destroying property oftentimes without provocation. Boisterous songs of contempt were sung in the parade to the accompaniment of the "rough music." It may be interesting to note that this reason for the pandemonium of Hallowe'en (and also of New Year's Eve carnivals) has never before been recorded by historians, at least to the knowledge of the author. Indeed, the masks and false faces of Hallowe'en may also be traced directly to this festival, as the leader of the procession was grotesquely costumed and hideously masked or "made-up." Burns' songs of Hallowe'en are still hallowed in Scotland, and cabbage broth is still a part of every Scotch Hallowe'en feast.

HANDSEL MONDAY—The first Monday in the year, a great holiday among the peasantry and children of Scotland, according to Walsh. The day in Scotland is especially devoted to the giving and receiving of presents, the word "handsel" in the Scotch vocabulary meaning presents or gifts.

HOLIDAY—According to Webster: A consecrated day; a religious anniversary or festival; an holy day (from which the word is derived); any day of exemption from

labor or work; a day of amusement or recreation; a festival day; a legal holiday; a day fixed by law for the suspension of labor or work either in whole or part. There is no national holiday in the United States, nor can there be one, Congress having no jurisdiction to appoint one. Sunday is the only common-law holiday. (Perhaps a careful reading of the above definitions of "Holiday" will interest the reader's attention in the scope of this *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS*, and will explain many of the interesting citations therein.)

HORSE SHOW—Held annually in Los Angeles, California, generally at the Ambassador Auditorium, in February.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4—Glorious Fourth of July. Who knows not the full significance of Independence Day, its origin and custom? Ask Young America. Since the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, it has been the Day of Days from Maine to Oregon, from Alaska and the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, from Florida to Sunny Southland, and everywhere where Americans may be—a day consecrated to Old Glory.

IOWA STATE PICNIC—See **STATE SOCIETY HOLIDAYS** for this and similar information. (Address The Federation of State Societies Information Bureau, care Commercial National Bank, Ninth and Spring Streets, Los Angeles, for detailed information regarding any State Society in Southern California. Telephone TRinity 3511.)

JACKSON'S DAY, January 8—Known also as Old Hickory's Day. Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, fought and won by General, afterwards President, Andrew Jackson, on January 8, 1815. It is a legal holiday in Louisiana, and a banquet date of the Democratic party throughout the United States.

JEWISH LUNAR CYCLE—Period of calculation used in Jewish Calendar. (See "JEWISH CALENDAR," encyclopedia.)

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JULIAN PERIOD—Dates from 4713 B. C., upon which date all chronological calculations are based where the solar lunar and indication cycles are combined. The Julian year is exactly 365 days and six hours long. It was proposed in 1582 by Scalliger in order to avoid chronological errors in calculation. (See "LEAP YEAR" or "CALENDAR" in encyclopedia.)

LABOR DAY, *September 6, 1926*—(First Monday in September.) An annual holiday in honor of workingmen and working women. A bill making Labor Day a legal holiday throughout the Union became a law June 28, 1894. But as this jurisdiction holds legally only within the District of Columbia and with government employes in the States, separate state legislation was required to make the law effective in all states. All states and territories have enacted legislation recognizing Labor Day as a legal holiday except Wyoming and the Philippines. The celebration of Labor Day is marked by closing of stores, shops and factories generally, by parades, picnics, excursions, sporting events and general holiday festivities.

LADY GODIVA'S PROCESSION, *August 2*—In the present-day craze and custom of the bobbed hair of Miss America it is interesting, by contrast, to note the event of Lady Godiva's Procession. This unique event for two centuries has been celebrated by a famous pageant yearly at Coventry, England. The leading characters are Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom. It marks the incident of Lady Godiva, clothed only with chastity, her nakedness protected only by her flowing hair, riding her horse through the streets as a sacrifice imposed upon her in exchange for the granting of her request for freedom for Coventry. Today in England this celebration is more in the nature of a Craftmen parade and an advertising pageant.

LEAP YEAR—The one year in four of 366 days (with exceptions), when Father Time balances his records with the Gregorian Calendar, by which Protestant and Cath-

olic nations measure time, as also does Japan by recent adoption. Every year divisible by four is a Leap Year of 366 days, *except* that divisible by 100; again excepting that divisible by 400 which *is* a Leap Year. Thus the year 1600 was a Leap Year, as also will be the year 2,000, but the years 1700, 1800 and 1900, though divisible by 4 *were not* Leap Years. This balances things up to the year 3223 A.D., but after that the minutes and fractions in the red will have to be taken care of. It is proposed that the year 4000 and all its multiples shall be common years of 365 days—but “we should worry.” St. Patrick is credited with the inauguration of the right of maid to propose marriage in Leap Year. At that, St. Patrick turned Bridget down.

LEGAL HOLIDAY LAW—As to negotiable instruments:

Under the Negotiable Instruments Law every negotiable instrument is payable at the time fixed therein without grace. When the day of maturity falls upon Sunday or a holiday, the instrument is payable on the next succeeding business day. In the United States legal holidays are fixed by State and Territorial legislation. No national holidays have been established by Congressional action. Contracts made and entered into upon a holiday *are valid* in the State of California. (See also SATURDAY HALF HOLIDAYS.)

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, February 12—Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, “Father Abraham” and “Good Old Abe,” born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809, died April 15, 1865, having been shot the day prior by John Wilkes Booth, an actor. Abraham Lincoln towered six feet four inches in height and was every inch a super-man. Twenty-two years after his death The Republican Club of New York City on February 12, 1887, gave its initial Lincoln's Birthday Dinner, and has thus celebrated on each recurring anniversary. This event was the parent of similar commemoration almost universally in metropolitan centers. Declared a legal holiday in Illinois in 1892, and also in

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New York, Minnesota, New Jersey and Washington in 1896.

LION SERMON, *October 16*—Just as a hint to the numerous Lions Clubs throughout America it is here recorded that on October 16 annually in London a Lion Sermon is preached at the Church of St. Katherine Cree, in commemoration of the miraculous deliverance of the King of Beasts of Sir John Gayer, lion hunter, former Mayor of London. He died in 1647 leaving a fund for the continuance of the Annual Lion Sermon.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR—Held annually at Pomona, California, in September.

LOW SUNDAY, *April 11, 1926*—(Date varies yearly dependent upon date set for Easter.) The first Sunday after Easter, so called, is a comparative term to Easter which is the *highest* or *greatest* of all Sundays in the Church Calendar.

MARY MAGDALEN, *July 22*—The beauty of the story of Mary Magdalen, as related in the Scriptures, has always made her a patron saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Painters, poets and sculptors have found great inspiration in her display of profound moral beauty of repentance.

MASONIC HOLIDAYS—(See separate Chronography under this heading.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, *April 1, 1926*—(Date varies yearly, it being the day before Good Friday.) Commemorates Christ's Last Supper. The outstanding observance on the part of Scottish Rite Masons is Maundy Thursday. The word Maundy comes through the old French *mande* from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning "to command," the reference being to John xiii, 34: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another."

MAY DAY, *May 1*—May Day is rather a Feast of Flowers, and its observance can be traced to direct descen-

dants of the ancient Roman Floralia. The Maypole itself is a phallic emblem, and one of the earliest customs was that of celebrating the Sun's entering Taurus—the renewed fertility of nature. The present day custom of the hanging of May-baskets by the children, of May Day parties, of the Maypole Dance, of Music Festivals and other beautiful and seasonable events, is growing in observance rather than diminishing. In fact May Festivals, as the title suggests, are now nationally observed celebrations of flower and song. Universities generally recognize May Day with wonderful pageants of flowers, with dancing drills and music beautifully interspersed.

McKINLEY'S BIRTHDAY, *January 29*—William McKinley, twenty-fifth President of the United States, born in Niles, Ohio, January 29, 1843; died, from assassination, September 14, 1901, age 57 years. Scotch-Irish descent. McKinley's Birthday anniversary is observed in Masonic circles. The anniversary is also known as Carnation Day.

MICHAELMAS DAY, *September 29*—St. Michael (name in Hebrew meaning "Who is like God"), was according to Jewish and Christian teaching, the chief of the arch-angels. In France he is one of the patrons of France, believed to have been the direct inspirer of Joan of Arc. Michaelmas Day in England was a great festival time, similar to our Thanksgiving Day. Goose instead of turkey received particular attention by old-time custom. In Ireland, by same custom, mutton is distributed to the poor. A day of feasting, benevolence and romance in European countries. In England it is one of the four quarterly rent payment days and also an election day. In Scotland, by custom, a field day for horse-racing, the stealing of a neighbor's horse, for the day only, being tolerated.

MISSIONS—The historical wonder spots, the treasured beauty spots, true monuments of noble self-sacrifice, are the Old Missions of California. (Call on CHAMBER OF COMMERCE for details.)

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MISTLETOE—Kissing under the mistletoe is an innocent survival from the Saturnalia of the ancients when riot and license ran loose. Mistletoe was held in special veneration by the Druids. "The Church later substituted Holly, significant of the dark monotony of matrimony and the numerous thorns with which it abounded," says one historian. Brand says: "Mistletoe was hung in great state at holiday time in the kitchen, and whatever maid chanced to stand thereunder the young man who chanced to be present had a right to kiss." "In the absence of Mistletoe," writes another, "Holly carries the right of osculatory privilege." Good news, for Mistletoe will soon be rare in California at least.

MOTHER'S DAY, May 9, 1926—(Date varies yearly, being appointed by Congress as the second Sunday in May.) A day of tribute to Mothers, living and departed. The floral emblem for the former is a red carnation and a white one for the latter. A day particularly sponsored by the Florists and the Greeting Card dealers of the United States. The first Mother's Day Greeting Card issued in America in this connection was written, designed and published by the author of this *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS* and paid tribute to "The Sweethearts of Yesterday, Our Mothers." Wonderful creations from the realm of Graphic Arts now beautifully commemorate Mother's Day throughout the nation. But "Mothering Sunday" in Mid-Lent was a good old custom in England many years ago. On that day visits were made to the old home and the mother was the recipient of gifts from her children.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS—There are no National Holidays. Even the Fourth of July is not a National Holiday. Congress has at various times appointed special holidays. It passed an act making Labor Day a public holiday in the District of Columbia and for all government employes. It has recognized certain days as holidays for commercial purposes, but there is no general statute on the subject. Thanksgiving Day by reason of

proclamation of the President of the United States becomes a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and Territories.

NATIONAL ORANGE SHOW—Held annually at San Bernardino, California, in February.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, *January 1*—In all Christian countries New Year's Day is celebrated on January 1 as the beginning of the year, according to the Gregorian calendar, which governs. Russia and Greece still retain the Julian Calendar which places our January 1 as January 13 with them and New Year's Day is thus celebrated on the thirteenth. Many are the varied and curious customs of celebrating the year's advent throughout the world. With Americans the New Year's Eve celebration is of two kinds and extremes: the prayer or watch-meeting of the Church; and the pandemonium of carnival of the sportive sort. Each of these customs has been handed down for generations. New Year's Day is held as "open house" or a general reception day. A universal holiday, it is pronounced in importance of observance as a day of feast, fiesta, frolic and sport. Special events in pageantry, for instance, mark New Year's Day in California, being the Annual Tournament of Roses at Pasadena, on January 1. There are many major football contests throughout America on New Year's Day. The Chinese New Year's Day happens anywhere from January 21 to February 19, being fixed by lunar calculation. The festival runs three days, is akin to our Fourth of July in the way of noise, and is the day on which all good Chinamen pay their debts. Japan follows the same custom of celebrating New Year's but, having adopted the Gregorian Calendar, she celebrates as we do on January 1, just as a starter, however, for the celebration is prolonged for several days. From China comes our custom of saying, "I wish you a Happy New Year"; this old-time salutation being "King hi! King hi!" meaning "I humbly wish you joy," or "Sin-hi!" meaning "May joy be yours." In China and Japan

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though a babe be but a few days old it is credited as being a year old on New Year's Day. Thus New Year's Day is everybody's birthday in those countries as well as Korea.

OLAF II, *July 29*—Patron of Norway. A great festival day in Norway and Sweden.

PALM SUNDAY, *March 28, 1926*—Date varies yearly, it being the Sunday immediately preceding Easter. Commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem when His pathway was strewn with branches cut from trees. At Rome the palms used in Palm Sunday ceremonials are genuine palms, and for many years it has been considered a great honor to furnish them. The palms or branches used are consecrated by the priests and carried in procession. In Spain Palm Sunday preserves all its picturesque mediaeval characteristics.

PANCAKE DAY (See SHROVE TUESDAY.)

PASSION SUNDAY, *March 21, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) A day of certain church obligations, especially significant in Episcopal Church, significant of Christ's suffering. It is the fifth Sunday in Lent.

PASSOVER—The Feast of Unleavened Bread of Pesach, the first and one of the most important festivals in the Jewish ecclesiastical year. (See JEWISH DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE.)

PENTECOST, or WHITSUNDAY, *May 23, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) An annual feast of Eastern and Western Churches in commemoration of the day upon which the Holy Ghost descended upon the apostles and when three thousand were baptized. It occurs fifty days after Easter. The name Whitsunday is derived from White Sunday, the candidates for baptism having been by custom originally attired in white robes. Whit Monday is an English Bank Holiday and is celebrated as opening day of an event similar to our county fair. In fact to the Whitsun Week fairs of early days may be traced

our agricultural fairs and bazaars. In St. Petersburg it was the early custom for mothers to bedeck their marriageable daughters in their best attire and present them at the Summer Garden to be inspected and possibly proposed to by young men.

PIONEER'S DAY.—(See STATE SOCIETY HOLIDAYS.)

PLAY GROUND OF AMERICA—The Play Ground of America is the "Paradise of the Pacific," *the entire Pacific Coast*. Why? Because each portion of it is blessed by Nature with a different environment of beauty, health and comfort; each unsurpassed in its wonders; the whole, in scenery, variety and climate, actualizing every conceivable ideal of man. There are of course exceptions, one tourist from the inland, exclaiming upon first seeing the Pacific Ocean from beautiful Palisade Heights at Santa Monica: "My, that there Ocean ain't near so big as I thought it was."

PLOUGH MONDAY—Still celebrated in rural England and Scotland, not a holiday, by any means, for it marks the farmer's resumption of work after the Christmas holidays, which consume twelve days of festivities with them.

PURIFICATION, *February 2*—Commonly called Candlemas Day. A church festival commemorating the Purification of the Virgin.

QUADRAGESIMA SUNDAY, *February 21, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) It is the first Sunday in Lent, signifying the forty days of Lenten period.

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY, *February 14, 1926*—(Also known as *Shrove Sunday*.) Date varies yearly, being the first Sunday before Ash Wednesday, so named because it was fiftieth day before Easter (including Easter Day

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and Quinquagesima Sunday itself). The custom of naming this and other Sundays previous to Lent is of ancient origin.

RAISIN SHOW—Held annually at Fresno, California.

RAMADAN—The ninth lunar month in the Mohammedan Calendar which is kept as the Lenten season.

ROGATION DAYS—Feast days, the three Rogation Days noted under Whitsunday; and also the Feast of St. Mark.

ROGATION SUNDAY, May 9, 1926—(Date varies yearly.) Sunday preceding Holy Thursday and inaugurating Rogation Week. The Rogation Days proper are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following. Observed by processions, fasting and divine supplication for blessing the fruits of the earth and temporal interests of man. Observed in Church of England as private fasts.

ROMAN INDICTION—The Roman Calendar is the ancient one from which our modern calendar is derived. The Indiction by which cycles are measured being established January 1, A.D. 313, and was used in calculating the Julian Period.

ROOSEVELT'S BIRTHDAY, October 27—Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-sixth President of the United States, born in New York City, October 27, 1859; died January 6, 1919.

ROSE SHOW—Portland, Oregon's, famous Rose Festival, held generally the first week in June.

SABBATH—Saturday, not Sunday, as many understand it to be; the seventh day of the week. The Sabbath of both the Jews and the Seventh Day Adventists begin at sunset Friday. With the Jews it closes at starlight Saturday night; with the Adventists at sunset Saturday evening. It is strictly observed by both with set custom and devout reverence.

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SATURDAY HALF HOLIDAY—In many states Saturday Afternoon is by statute observed as a legal holiday. For this reason, fundamentally, banks close on Saturday afternoons. Every Saturday from noon until midnight is a legal holiday so far as the transaction of business in public offices of this state is concerned. However this statute *does not* invalidate the issuance, filing, service, execution or recording of any legal process or written instrument whatever on Saturday Afternoon. (See **BANK HOLIDAYS**.)

SEPTEMBER MORN—Name derived from popular painting. Now a popular term for the morning of the first of September.

SEPTEMBER SIXTEENTH—Independence Day of Mexico. Spanish Fiestas mark this celebration throughout Southern California.

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY, *January 31, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) It is the third Sunday before Lent, a day of certain church obligations.

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY, *February 7, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) It is the second Sunday before Lent, and a day of certain church obligations.

SHAMROCK DAY—(See **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**.)

SHEELAH'S DAY, *March 18*—The Irish celebrate March 18, the day after St. Patrick's Day under this name. Says one historian, "Who Sheelah was is uncertain, some say Patrick's wife, others say she was his mother, but all agree that the day must be celebrated, so the shamrock of St. Patrick's Day is drowned in the toast of Sheelah's Day."

SHROVE SUNDAY—(See **QUINQUAGESIMA**.)

SHROVE TUESDAY, February 16, 1926—(Date varies yearly.) The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, hence the last day previous to Lent. A penitential date. In England it was chosen as a holiday, a carnival time, in preparation of the fast. Many novel customs of celebrating were in vogue, among them the Lemon Fight, the Goose March and Football Contests, Pancake Day and Lent Crocking, many of which were enlivened by songs of jingling rhyme. From chronicles of Shrove Tuesday we trace the source of our present day flap-jack or pancake.

SKY-BLUE MONDAY—This is one day distinctively American as well as Western in origin. It is a day dedicated to optimism and good cheer, and one of friendly felicitation. Purely commercial in origin it marks the first of Direct-by-Mail advertising campaigns, the name having been coined by the author of this, *The BOOK of HOLIDAYS*, thirty years ago. It was first used as a title for five weekly mailings in a laundry advertising campaign with the objective of changing the proverbial "Blue Monday" of the housewife into a "Sky-Blue Monday" of care-free rejoicing. Continuing in various forms for other lines of business it was in 1915 adopted by Sim Crabill, General Manager of The Times-Mirror Printing and Binding House, Los Angeles, as a title for weekly letters of good cheer and good will promotion. The Sky-Blue Monday Letters are issued weekly by this publishing house, fifty-two weeks in the year, and have become a fixed and popular feature in good will promotion. In fact Sky-Blue Monday in Southern California, at least, has become a widely recognized day of smiles, good cheer, thoughtful consideration, kindly interest and general uplift. Sky-Blue Monday is but another term for the "Spirit of Sunny Southern California."

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SOLAR CYCLE—A Sun Cycle, the period of 28 years when the days of the month according to the Julian Calendar return to the same days of the week.

STATE SOCIETY HOLIDAYS—Nearly all State Societies maintain in Southern California an organization for the promotion of fellowship and general good will. Any information desired in this connection will be cheerfully furnished upon application to The Federation of State Societies. Information Bureau is maintained at the Commercial National Bank, Ninth and Spring Streets, Los Angeles. Telephone TRinity 3511. The North Carolina Society celebrates May 20, the date of the Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence, with a dinner given at a place selected by their committee. The New England Society holds an annual picnic May 30 (Decoration Day). The Iowa Association of Southern California holds each year on the fourth Saturday in February (or if raining one week later), a great outdoor reunion and basket picnic at Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. Also on the second Saturday in August, an annual summer outing at Long Beach. This Society holds an Iowa Admission Day Dinner December 28. Every State Society holds from one to four picnics or gatherings yearly. Meetings and entertainments are held monthly from October to May. (See above address for further information.)

ST. ANDREW'S DAY, *November 30*—The Feast of St. Andrew is celebrated in honor of this apostle and patron saint of Scotland and of Russia. Romance of mating still survives in connection with the day in many countries. This day is generally observed in Scotland.

ST. ANTHONY'S DAY, *January 17*—St. Anthony (hermit, A.D. 251-356) was the originator of the monastic idea in Christianity. His day in the Catholic Calendar is January 17. He regarded the female sex with profound mistrust. He was the organizer of the first anti-Woman crusade. He advocated a wholesale boycott of women.

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Yet unpopular as she would seem to have been, it is recorded that he was very popular among the ladies of his time.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW, *August 24*—Apostle-Martyr, flayed alive and then crucified. Name is significant of water, hence the old English weather prognostication: "As Bartholomew Day, so the rest of autumn."

ST. GEORGE, *April 23*—Patron saint of England of the period of the Fourth Century. A red-letter day in that country and a holiday in many parts of Christendom. Emblem is the dragon, which single-handed St. George is supposed to have conquered. Made, in 1344, patron of the Order of the St. George, or Blue Garter, by Edward III. Immortalized by Shakespeare when Richard III exclaims:

*"Our ancient word of courage, Fair St. George,
Inspires us with the spleen of fiery dragons."*

Before his reformation it is recorded in early history that he was one of the first war profiteers, having had a contract to furnish the army with bacon. (Advertisers may note with interest that the old trademark of Hostetter's Bitters owes its inspiration to the heraldry of St. George mounted on a rearing charger and in the act of spearing the deadly dragon.)

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, *July 3*—Founder of the order of the Jesuits. His festival is celebrated on the day of his death, July 3. He was of a noble Spanish family and was born in Biscay in 1491.

ST. JAMES, *July 25*—St. James, the Great, probably elder brother of St. John the Evangelist. He is the patron saint of Spain and this day, the anniversary of his death, is one of the greatest national holidays in Spain.

ST. JOHN, THE BAPTIST, *June 24*—Celebrated by the Church by ancient decree as the anniversary of the

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birthday of St. John, the Baptist, patron saint against convulsions and epilepsy, who was beheaded by order of Herodias. Known also as Midsummer Day, the eve of which is celebrated in Spain and Great Britain with carnival festivities. From the occasion of the tragic ending of this saint comes the story and dance of Salome.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, *December 27*—The Church commemorates the death-day of this saint on December 27, and fixes the year at A.D. 101. It is one of the Masonic holidays of foremost importance and is known as St. John the Evangelist's Day.

ST. MARK, *April 25*—Patron Saint of Venice. Beloved disciple of St. Peter, who converted him. Date marks anniversary of his death. In old calendars this church feast in Catholic circles was known as *Litania Major*, the occasion of the singing of her great litanies to beg God to avert scourges due to sin.

ST. MONDAY—From the chronicles of London as recorded by Hogarth we find the true origin of Blue Monday, we believe. It was a day of debauchery among the working classes of that period. The day is recorded as Saint Monday, but the celebrations were far from saintly. It is indeed properly named Blue Monday, or Black Monday, as elsewhere recorded, for the consequences of the indulgences were mentally and morally depressing.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, *March 17*—St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, whose festival is celebrated on March 17 by Irishmen wherever they happen to be. Much uncertainty exists as to exact date of the birth and death of St. Patrick. Best authorities give A.D. 386 as year of his birth in Nempthur, near Gastonbury, England. He was once kidnapped and sold as a slave. Bishop Patrick was a statesman as well as a priest. He is said to have founded three hundred and sixty-five churches and planted a schoolhouse by the side of each. Also credited

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with having driven snakes, frogs, and vermin from Ireland. In his crusades he was always preceded by a vigorous drummer, a forerunner of the present Salvation Army custom. The shamrock is worn everywhere in commemoration of St. Patrick, used significantly by him as an emblem of the Trinity—the plant bearing three leaves from one stem. Green is the St. Patrick's Day color, significant of undying gratitude to his memory. A festival time in Catholic Church and Irish circles in America. St. Patrick is said to have been the originator of the right of the fair sex to propose marriage during Leap Year.

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, *June 24*—St. Peter, according to claims of the Catholic Church, was the first Bishop or Pope of Rome. His martyrdom, together with that of St. Paul (Chief Apostle) is commemorated on June 29. St. Paul was beheaded and at the same time St. Peter was crucified. In England the day is known as St. Peter's Day and after certain ceremonies, feasting and barn dances are still the order and custom.

ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, *May 1*—A festival in the Anglican Church in honor of St. Philip and St. James the Less, apostles.

ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE, *October 28*—In commemoration of St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles.

ST. STEPHEN, *December 26*—In commemoration of St. Stephen, the proto-martyr or first Christian martyr, patron of horses. A day, by olden custom, in which the health and welfare of horses must be particularly looked after. Humane societies in America might well make this a natal date.

ST. THOMAS DAY, *December 21*—Festival in commemoration of St. Didymus Thomas, Apostle, and patron saint of Portugal and Parma. In England it is still marked as a day of alms-seeking by the old women who walk the streets mumbling in search of gratuities. From

it comes the term of "mumping" and "mooching," which signifies "to mutter." The longest night and shortest day of the year, as marked by this date, are still sung in rhyme in connection with St. Thomas Day.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY, February 14—Dedicated to the Goddess of Love in the Kingdom of Hearts, with Cupid especially active. On this day missives of amatory significance are sent and received. The old custom of anonymously sending satirical and caricature prints known as "comic valentines" has been generally discontinued. Though named in honor of St. Valentine, a bishop or Pope of Rome, no connection seems to be attributed to his conduct, for he was indeed a pious personage. One of the early authorities, Bailey's English Dictionary (1721) says of St. Valentine's Day: "About this time of year birds choose their mates, and probably thence came the custom of young men and maidens choosing Valentines, or special loving friends, on that day." In the days of quill pens amorous swains were obliged to content themselves with sending their fair and chosen ones thick sheets of gilt-edged paper with a gilt cupid carefully gummed thereon, and with the message about the rose being red, the violet blue, sugar being sweet, and so forth. All of which was written in with an abundance of pen flourishes. While Greeting Cards of today may trace their origin to St. Valentine's Day, the old custom of elaborate cut-outs in lacy design with cupids and hearts galore, still commands the attention of the youth today as particularly appropriate for his message of admiration. In the Kindergarten Work of Public Schools St. Valentine's Day is welcomed as a most excellent time for stimulating child-interest in creative-design, exceptionally clever cut-outs often resulting. The dominant message in this case is child-love for parent, teacher, or playmate.

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 25, 1926—The date for this our universally recognized holiday is fixed as

the last Thursday in November, and that date is yearly set aside for national observance by order of proclamation issued by the President of the United States. However, it is only a legal holiday in those states which have so fixed it by special statute. It is *not* in the province of the Federal government to tell the people of the United States when they shall quit business and take to pleasure. Nevertheless Thanksgiving Day is universally observed as a holiday. Primarily it is a day for thanksgiving and gratitude for the blessings of life. The first Thanksgiving Day in North America was held in 1578 in Newfoundland. The first day of this sort to be observed in the United States was in August, 1607, on the coast of Maine. The real origin of Thanksgiving as a special day of prayer and rejoicing must be attributed to Governor Bradford, first governor of Massachusetts Colony, and was proclaimed to be observed on December 13, 1621. Beginning with 1684 the festival became an annual and formal one in Massachusetts, and the example was soon followed by all New England Colonies. The fact that the turkey made early appearance as the delicacy of Thanksgiving Day feasts is also to be credited to Governor Bradford, for he immediately, after his proclamation, sent four men in search of wild game and they returned laden with enough wild turkeys to last all the inhabitants a week. Washington issued the first proclamation to the Continental Army in 1777. The features marked early day Thanksgiving—sportive, festal and religious. The sportively inclined found joy in the turkey "raffle" and in the "turkey shoot." Of the religious features it is recorded that one of the leading early day pastors prayed, "O Lord, endow President Jefferson with a goodly portion of Thy grace, for Thou, O Lord, knowest that he needs it." Church services universally and beautifully mark our observance today, but the feasting, home-coming, the football game, the motor races, and even the "raffle" are important Thanksgiving events, for there are many different ways of expressing gratitude. As a darky once expressed himself: "No,

boss, I didn't win no turkey birds, but say, man, think of the fun I had thinkin' I *was* gonna win. Besides I can be mighty thankful 'cause I know right whar dar's a mighty good Thanksgiving chicken I can get my hands on."

THE SEASONS—Californians particularly will be interested in the following: Spring begins March 21; Summer begins June 22; Autumn begins September 23; Winter begins December 22. In Southern California there are two kinds of weather—usual and unusual. That the usual "spring-time, most of the time" predominates is proven by its popularity with the millions of tourists who have made Sunny Southland their Playland.

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES—Pasadena, California's, Annual Rose Festival held New Year's Day, rain or shine. World-famed and justly so.

TRANSFIGURATION, *August 6*—Anniversary of the Transfiguration, when Christ ascended Mt. Tabor with His three favorite disciples and displayed to them His glory. The feast of the Transfiguration is kept by Greek and Latin churches.

TRINITY SUNDAY, *May 30, 1926*—(Date varies yearly.) The Sunday after Whitsunday, fifty-seven days after Easter Sunday, especially devoted to the commemoration of the mystery of the Trinity. It is still a custom in London for the Lord Mayor and Common Council to attend divine service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Trinity Sunday. The Lord Mayor's chaplain delivers the sermon, which is thereafter printed at the expense of the city.

TWELFTH NIGHT—(See EPIPHANY.)

VALENCIA ORANGE SHOW—Held annually at Santa Ana, California, midsummer.

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VEILED PROPHET—Annual pageant performed in St. Louis the first Tuesday in October.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, *February 22*—George Washington, first President of the United States, "Father of His Country," born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, February 11 (old style) equivalent to February 22, 1732. Died December 14, 1799. Washington's Birthday, even before his death, was celebrated as a Thanksgiving day, a day of rejoicing, he frequently being present at banquets given in honor of the occasion. The first recorded mention of a Washington's Birthday celebration is said to be in "*The Virginia Gazette* or *The American Advertiser*" of Richmond: "Tuesday last being the birthday of His Excellency General Washington, our illustrious Commander-in-Chief, the same was commemorated here with the utmost demonstrations of joy." This was in the year 1782, his fiftieth birthday, seven years prior to his inauguration as President. By reason of the white wig of Colonial Days few picture George Washington as he really was: red-headed, blue eyed and registering over six feet in height.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES—First, Cotton; Second, Paper; Third, Leather; Fifth, Wooden; Seventh, Woolen; Tenth, Tin; Twelfth, Silk and fine linen; Fifteenth, Crystal; Twentieth, China; Twenty-fifth, Silver; Thirtieth, Pearl; Fortieth, Ruby; Fiftieth, Golden; Seventy-fifth, Diamond.

WHIT MONDAY—(See PENTECOST or WHITSUNDAY.)

[THE END]

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